Index to

Aerospace Engineering, Volume 21

January—December 1962

Subject Index

(Author Index appears on page 112)

Month Page

Adventures in Engineering

Bowling Ball Scores Discoverer Program "Strike," *T. J. Blechar, R. L. Fuller,* and *Don Zapf* ..... *Apr.* 61
Evolving the Electronic Watch, *Max Hetzel* ... *Jan.* 56
Hydrofoil Testing, *Charles Tilgner III* ..... *May* 77
Tailoring the First Cycle, *R. C. Ruhland* ..... *Mar.* 71
Tools for Management, *Edward A. Ledeen* .... *Feb.* 63
Will It Fly?, *W. J. Furlick* ..... *June* 72

Aerodynamic and Fluid Mechanics

Deflection Analysis of Shaft-Supported Aerodynamic Surfaces, *Robert M. Rivello* and *Somayajulu Durvasula* ..... *Mar.* 64
An Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Hydrofoil Flutter, *Eugene F. Baird, Charles E. Squires, Jr.,* and *Renso L. Caporali* ..... *Feb.* 34
Hydrofoils—A State of the Art Summary, *Owen H. Oakley* ..... *Dec.* 10
Investigation of High-Speed Impact—A Technique, *W. B. Stephenson* ..... *Nov.* 10
New Test Techniques for a Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel, *C. J. Stalmach, Jr., and J. M. Cooksey* ..... *Mar.* 62
On a Two-Dimensional Perforated Intake Diffuser, *J. H. T. Wu* ..... *July* 58
Roll Control Problem of Finned Rocket Vehicles With Winged Payload, *J. L. Decker* .. *Nov.* 58
Some Results of Finite-Bladed Ducted-Propeller Theory for VTOL, *Alfred Ritter* and *D. E. Ordway* ..... *July* 54
Sonic Boom Waves—Calculation of Atmospheric Refraction, *Jack W. Reed* and *Kenneth G. Adams* ..... *Mar.* 66
Two-Stage, Light-Gas Model Launchers—Performance Characteristics, *W. B. Stephenson* and *D. E. Anderson* ..... *Aug.* 64

Aeroelasticity

Advances in Flutter Flight Testing Through Automatic Spectrum Analysis Techniques, *Saul Ferdman, Arnold P. Schaffer,* and *Renso L. Caporali* ..... *June* 54
Aeroelastic Considerations in a Slender, Blunt-Nose, Multistage Rocket, *Phineas Woods* and *Lars-Eric Ericsson* ..... *May* 42
Gust Alleviator and Rigidity Augmentor for Supersonic Airplanes, *G. M. Andrew, J. M. Johnson, Jr.,* and *F. H. Gardner* ..... *May* 72
Rationalization of an Aspect of Sonic Fatigue, *H. C. Schjelderup* and *A. E. Galef* ..... *June* 44
Some Effects of Random Turbulence on Weapons-System Performance, *Donald L. Grande* ..... *Oct.* 35

Aerospace Technology as Seen by the Panels

Communication—Communication With Extraterrestrial Intelligence, *Paul Rosenberg* ... *Aug.* 68
Communication—It Isn't All THAT Difficult, *K. C. Black* ..... *July* 61
Communication—The New Dimensions of Electronics, *William J. Sen* ..... *Oct.* 63
Control and Guidance—Apollo Most Complex, Extensive Guidance Job Yet, *Robert L. Roderick* ..... *Mar.* 70
Control and Guidance—Recovery and Landing of Space Vehicles, *Percy Halpert* ..... *May* 76
Control and Guidance—Theoretician Faces a More Difficult Task, *Stanley F. Schmidt* .... *Feb.* 62
Energy Conversion—Energy Conversion as Applied to Advanced Space Propulsion Systems, *Robert Bromberg* ..... *May* 76
Flight Mechanics—Satellite Rigid-Body Dynamics—A New Field of Stability and Control Engineering, *Malcolm J. Abzug* ..... *Sept.* 90
Meteorology—Atmospheric Jet Streams in the Aerospace Age, *Herbert Riehl* ..... *June* 70
Meteorology—On the Verge of a Breakthrough, *Morris Tepper* ..... *Jan.* 54
Meteorology—The Role of the Weather Flight Plan Computer, *Henry T. Harrison* ..... *Sept.* 91
Propulsion Systems—Selection of High-Thrust Propulsion Systems, *Robert H. Boden* ..... *Apr.* 60
Reliability—Managing a Reliability Program, *Dorian Shainin* ..... *Dec.* 64
Space Physics—The Road to the Planets, *Leo Steg* ..... *June* 71
Structures and Materials—Design Implications of the Unknowns of Ionizing Radiation in Manned Space Flight, *Norris F. Dow* ..... *July* 60
Structures and Materials—Trends in the Pursuit of Materials Science and Technology, *Harris M. Burte* ..... *Dec.* 65

Biomedical Sciences

Critical Bio-Engineering Needs for Lunar Missions, *J. J. Rosa* ..... *Apr.* 50
Designing for Space Radiation, *Sidney Russak* *Oct.* 60

	Month	Page
Electronic Support System for Manned Lunar Missions, *R. A. Heartz*	*Oct.*	22
The Future Stature of Life Support Systems, *Norman Belasco*	*Sept.*	86
In-Flight Measurement, Transmission, and Assessment of Astronaut Physiologic Responses, *C. Patrick Laughlin*	*Jan.*	40
Risk and Reliability, *Milton A. Grodsky*	*Jan.*	28
Some Effects of Random Turbulence on Weapon System Performance, *Donald L. Grande*	*Oct.*	35
The Space Vehicle—Manned Versus Unmanned, *D. G. Starkey*	*Sept.*	88

Communication

NASA's RELAY Spacecraft, *Raymond M. Wilmotte*	*Aug.*	62
The Naval Tactical Data System Modular Concept, *Ralph A. Hileman*	*Apr.*	45

Control and Guidance

Adaptive and Self-Organizing Flight Control Systems, *M. A. Ostgaard* and *L. M. Butsch*	*Sept.*	80
Automatic Latitude/Longitude Sensing Technique for Earth Satellites, *David J. Freeman*	*Nov.*	48
The Azimuth Gyro as a Heading Reference for High-Speed Aircraft, *William P. Blair*	*Aug.*	66
Backlash Tolerances and Their Effects on a Guided Missile, *J. M. Bailey* and *S. A. Kuca*	*Dec.*	29
A Bang-Bang Attitude Control System for Space Vehicles, *Stanley I. Lieberman*	*Oct.*	54
Control Response Requirements, *Waldemar O. Breuhaus* and *William F. Milliken, Jr.*	*Sept.*	82
Descent Trajectory Optimization for Soft Lunar Landings, *Maxwell Mason* and *Samuel M. Brainin*	*Apr.*	54
Design Implications of the Human Transfer Function, *D. T. McRuer* and *I. L. Ashkenas*	*Sept.*	76
Emphasis on Human Participation in Guidance and Control, *O. H. Lindquist*	*Jan.*	48
Instrument Flight Simulator Study of the VTOL Controllability-Control Power Relationship, *John Patierno* and *James A. Isca*	*Mar.*	31
Interplanetary Navigation With Emphasis on Human Participation, *Robert N. Brown*	*Jan.*	46
New Control Criteria for VTOL Aircraft, *Robert R. Lynn*	*Aug.*	31
Nutation Damping Rates for a Spinning Satellite, *W. R. Haseltine*	*Mar.*	10
A Theory of Handling Qualities Derived From Pilot-Vehicle System Considerations, *Irving L. Ashkenas* and *Duane T. McRuer*	*Feb.*	60

Editorial

Coming to Terms With Machines, *Leo Steg*	*Sept.*	14
Manned Space Flight—A Progress Report, *Robert R. Gilruth*	*Jan.*	8
Planning Two Technological Revolutions Ahead, *Herman Kahn*	*Apr.*	8
The Still Unbroken Barrier, *Allen Bernhardt*	*June*	7
The Still Unbroken Barrier—Part II, *Allan Bernhardt*	*July*	9
Talent Flow—Let's Design for it, *James E. Webb*	*Nov.*	9
Teacher Feedback—A Safeguard to Our Scientific Progress, *Richard H. Bolt*	*Aug.*	6

Education

Talent Flow—Let's Design for it, *James E. Webb*	*Nov.*	9
Views on Aerospace Engineering Education, *Joseph Perina*	*Apr.*	58

Energy Conversion

Electric Power for Space Vehicles, *Howard C. Zachmann*	*May*	68
A Basic Solar Thermoelectric Power Unit—Seeking Experimental and Theoretical Performance Agreement, *Ronald Lang* and *Barry T. Lubin*	*Feb.*	6
Optimizing the Power Output of Solar Cells With Concentrators, *A. P. Latour* and *F. A. Costello*	*Apr.*	31

Flight Mechanics

Automatic Latitude/Longitude Sensing Technique for Earth Satellites, *David J. Freeman*	*Nov.*	48
Minimum Weight Shells in Bending, *Richard H. Gallagher, Ivan Rattinger*, and *Alexander Krivetsky*	*Feb.*	58
Momentum Equations for Variable Mass, *J. L. Meriam*	*July*	52
Optimization of Missile Intercept Range, *William Lindorfer* and *Allan Nathan*	*May*	74
Optimum Coplanar Two-Impulse Transfers Between Elliptic Orbits, *David F. Bender*	*Oct.*	44
Optimum Lateral Turns for a Re-Entry Glider, *Arthur E. Bryson, Kinya Mikami*, and *C. Tucker Battle*	*Mar.*	18
Predicting Missile Performance Margin—An Analytical Method, *Dennis R. Longren* and *Dietrich G. Strechert*	*Aug.*	58
Visual Control of Rendezvous, *Roy F. Brissenden* and *Edgar C. Lineberry, Jr.*	*June*	64

General Interest

Automatic Landing—The Role of the Human Pilot, *A. M. A. Majendie*	*Sept.*	24
Designing Long-Life Unmanned Satellites, *F. E. Xydis*	*Sept.*	84
Engineers CAN Write! *Hyman Olken*	*Oct.*	58
Erratum, *Joseph G. Wohl*	*Feb.*	65
Functions of Man in Complex Systems, *Paul M. Fitts*	*Jan.*	34
Manned Lunar Landing, *Maxime A. Faget* and *Charles W. Mathews*	*Jan.*	50
Man's Role in Apollo, *Robert R. Gilruth* and *L. N. McMillion*	*Sept.*	42
The NASA Astronaut Program, *Walter C. Williams* and *Warren J. North*	*Jan.*	13
On-Board Tracking and Data Systems for a Manned Lunar Spacecraft, *Ralph S. Sawyer.*	*Jan.*	44
Our Expanding Scientific and Technological Challenge (an address by the Institute's 30th President), *L. E. Root*	*Dec.*	8
Pilot Considerations in Transport Autopilot Design, *J. R. Utterstrom*	*Sept.*	35
Piloted Flight-Simulator Research—A Critical Review, *Melvin Sadoff* and *Charles W. Harper*	*Sept.*	50
Reliable, Trainable Networks for Computing and Control, *Bernard Widrow* and *James B. Angell*	*Sept.*	78

Month Page

Instrumentation

The Azimuth Gyro as a Heading Reference for High-Speed Aircraft, *William P. Blair*... Aug. 66
New Control Criteria for VTOL Aircraft, *Robert R. Lynn*... Aug. 31
A Digital Propellant Utilization System, *Robert L. Rod* and *Jules A. Massa*... Nov. 27
Automatic Latitude/Longitude Sensing Technique for Earth Satellites, *David J. Freeman* Nov. 48

Management

Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers, *Brainerd Holmes, Robert R. Gilruth, Walter C. Williams, Wernher von Braun, Alan B. Shepard, Paul Haney*, and *John "Shorty" Powers*... Sept. 16
Planning in Today's Management, *T. F. Hammen, Jr.*... Apr. 56

Meteorology

Nimbus Spacecraft System, *Rudolf Stampfl* and *Harry Press*... July 16
On the Nature of Clear-Air Turbulence (CAT), *Elmar R. Reiter*... Nov. 39
Radiometric Measurements From Satellites, *Rudolf A. Hanel*... July 34
Satellite Infrared Spectrometer—Design and Development, *M. G. Dreyfus* and *D. T. Hilleary*... Feb. 32
Space Rocket Upper Atmosphere Modification, *Jerome Pressman*... Aug. 16
Tiros I, II, and III—Design and Performance, *A. Schnapf*... June 32

Nuclear Applications

Investigating Radiation Effects on Electronic Devices, *A. L. Kaplan*... July 40
Mechanical and Aerothermodynamic Design of Tory IIA, *John W. Cox* and *P. Michael Uthe, Jr.*... June 8

Operations

Considerations for Spacecraft Recovery From Lunar Missions, *Robert F. Thompson* and *Donald C. Cheatham*... Jan. 52
Development and Maintenance of Satellite Systems, *R. Nichols Hazelwood, Jerome D. Herniter, Sue S. Jamison*, and *Richard F. Meyer*... Apr. 27
Designing for Airline Safety, *Carl M. Christenson*... Sept. 64
Electronic Support System for Manned Lunar Missions, *R. A. Heartz*... Oct. 22
The Future Stature of Life Support Systems, *Norman Belasco*... Sept. 86
Ground Check-Out and Launch Procedures for Manned Space-Flight Operations, *H. H. Luetjen*... Jan. 16
Information Flow Requirements for Manned Lunar Space Flight, *Dennis E. Fielder*... Jan. 22
Lunar Basing, *John DeNike* and *Stanley Zahn*... Oct. 8
The Navy and V/STOL, *Clem C. Weissman*... May 52
The One-Way Manned Space Mission, *John M. Cord* and *Leonard M. Seale*... Dec. 60
Orbital Assembly and Launch for Lunar Operations, *Norman V. Petersen*... Aug. 41
Planning on Effective Missile Ground System—The Role of Operational Analysis, *Sidney I. Firstman*... Mar. 68
Project Beacon—Air Traffic Control System Considerations and Recommendations, *Richard R. Hough*... June 50
Some Abort Techniques and Procedures for Manned Spacecraft, *John M. Eggleston*... Nov. 17
Some Effects of Random Turbulence on Weapon-System Performance, *Donald L. L. Grande*... Oct. 35
Systems Maintenance Training—A Bold Approach, *John N. Huson* and *J. Gordon Vaeth* July 29

Propulsion Systems

A Closed Analytical Solution for the Core Dimensions of Heat Exchangers, *Lidia Manson*... Dec. 32
A Digital Propellant Utilization System, *Robert L. Rod* and *Jules A. Massa*... Nov 27
An Electrostatic Propulsion System With a Direct Nuclear Electrogenerator, *Charles A. Low, Jr.*, and *William R. Mickelsen*... Dec. 58
Mechanical and Aerothermodynamic Design of Tory IIA, *John W. Cox* and *P. Michael Uthe, Jr.*... June 8
Payload Separation and Thrust Termination in a Solid-Propellant Rocket Motor, *Robert Sehgal*... May 6
Propulsion for Interplanetary Space Missions, *F. M. Kirby*... Aug. 22
Secondary-Injection Thrust-Vector Control Systems, *G. Wayne Hawk* and *Lewis H. Geyer*... May 31
Transient, Radial Heat Transfer in Uncooled Rocket Nozzles, *J. E. Medford*... Oct. 15
Winding Very Large Rocket Motor Casings, *Bertram Klein*... June 68

Reliability

Reliability and Confidence Criteria in Structural Design, *H. Serbin*... Dec. 37
Reliability Through Redundancy in Electromechanical Devices, *P. F. Bechberger*... Oct. 30
Risk and Reliability, *Milton A. Grodsky*... Jan. 28

Space Physics

Analysis of the Combined Influences of the Micrometeoroid and Radiation Environments on Spacecraft Design, *E. M. Finkelman*... Dec. 41
Direct Evaluation of Meteoroid Hazard, *Elmer H. Davison* and *Paul C. Winslow, Jr.*... Feb. 24
Gravity and Antigravity, *Robert L. Forward*... Nov. 56
Measurement of Electrical Conductivity of Ionized Air During Re-Entry, *R. Betchov, A. E. Fuhs, R. X. Meyer*, and *A. B. Schaffer* Nov. 54
Space Radiation—Its Nature and Properties, *A. J. Masley* and *A. D. Goedeke*... June 21

Structural Dynamics

Some Effects of Random Turbulence on Weapon-System Performance, *Donald L. Grande*... Oct. 35

Month Page

Structures and Materials

Bonded Components in Rocket Motors, *Max A. Nadler* and *George Epstein*..... *May* 70
Corrugated Open-Face Sandwich Plate, *Gerald A. Wempner* and *J. W. McKinley*..... *Dec.* 56
On the Derivation of the Stress-Strain Diagram From a Statistical Approach, *Irwin R. Whiteman*..... *Oct.* 56
Design Parameters for Elliptical Toroidal Pressure Vessels, *Harry M. Turner*..... *Nov.* 33
Effects of Mars Atmospheric Uncertainties on Entry Vehicle Design, *Joseph M. Spiegel*... *Dec.* 62
The Filament-Reinforced Motor Case, *Charles N. Odell* and *W. E. Albert*..... *Apr.* 52
Fundamental Aspects of Structural Reliability, *Innes Bouton*..... *June* 66
A Method of Stress Analysis for Shrouded Discs, *Edward J. Deutsch*..... *Mar.* 24
The Performance of Nonlinear Systems Subjected to Ground Shock, *Y. C. Fung* and *Millard V. Barton*..... *Feb.* 46
Phase Separation Technique for Ground Vibration Testing, *C. V. Stahle, Jr*..... *July* 9
Premium-Quality Light Alloy Castings, *H. F. Taylor* and *M. C. Flemings*..... *July* 10
Reliability and Confidence Criteria in Structural Design, *H. Serbin*..... *Dec.* 37
Structural Analysis by Computers—A Comparison of Three Types, *Frederick L. Ryder*. *Aug.* 60

Month Page

Support

Maximizing Reliability for One-Shot Space Missions, *S. C. Morrison*..... *Mar.* 54

Vehicle Design

Assessment of Critical Problem Areas of the Supersonic Transport by Means of Piloted Simulators, *Maurice D. White, Melvin Sadoff, Richard S. Bray,* and *George E. Cooper*..... *May* 12
Designing for Space Radiation, *Sidney Russak*. *Oct.* 60
Effects of Mars Atmospheric Uncertainties on Entry Vehicle Design, *Joseph M. Spiegel*.... *Dec.* 62
The High-Speed VTOL X-100 and M200 Aircraft, *H. V. Borst*..... *Aug.* 8
150-Knot GEM Cruise, *T. Strand*..... *Apr.* 38
The Record-Setting Research Airplanes, *James A. Martin*..... *Dec.* 49
Solar Probes—A Feasibility Study, *Charles F. Hall, George J. Nothwang,* and *Harold Hornby*..... *May* 22
The Subsonic VTOL and GETOL in Perspective, *Wieslaw Z. Stepniewski*..... *Apr.* 10
Performance and Economic Evaluation of Supersonic Transports Optimized for Various Propulsion Subsystems, *M. A. Sousa, Warren Joy, D. L. Smith,* and *R. J. Schmitt*.. *Mar.* 42
Concept and Development of a Simple, Stable, and Economical VTOL Vehicle, *Hall L. Hibbard* and *R. R. Heppe*..... *Feb.* 16

Author Index

Month Page

ABZUG, MALCOLM J. Flight Mechanics—Satellite Rigid-Body Dynamics—A New Field of Stability and Control Engineering.. *Sept.* 90
ADAMS, KENNETH G., AND JACK W. REED. Sonic Boom Waves—Calculation of Atmospheric Refraction..... *Mar.* 66
ALBERT, W. E., AND CHARLES N. ODELL. The Filament-Reinforced Motor Case..... *Apr.* 52
ANDERSON, D. E., AND W. B. STEPHENSON. Two-Stage, Light-Gas Model Launchers—Performance Characteristics..... *Aug.* 64
ANDREW, G. M., J. M. JOHNSON, JR., AND F. H. GARDNER. Gust Alleviator and Rigidity Augmentor for Supersonic Airplanes..... *May* 72
ANGELL, JAMES B., AND BERNARD WIDROW. Reliable, Trainable Networks for Computing and Control..... *Sept.* 78
ASHKENAS, I. L., AND D. T. MCRUER. Design Implications of the Human Transfer Function..... *Sept.* 76
ASHKENAS, IRVING L., AND DUANE T. MCRUER. A Theory of Handling Qualities Derived From Pilot-Vehicle System Considerations..... *Feb.* 60

BAILEY, J. M., AND S. A. KUCA. Backlash Tolerances and Their Effects on a Guided Missile..... *Dec.* 29
BAIRD, EUGENE F., CHARLES E. SQUIRES, JR., AND RENSO L. CAPORALI. An Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Hydrofoil Flutter..... *Feb.* 34
BARTON, MILLARD V., AND Y. C. FUNG. The Performance of Nonlinear Systems Subjected to Ground Shock..... *Feb.* 46
BATTLE, C. TUCKER, ARTHUR E. BRYSON, AND KINYA MIKAMI. Optimum Lateral Turns for a Re-Entry Glider..... *Mar.* 18
BECHBERGER, P. F. Reliability Through Redundancy in Electromechanical Devices..... *Oct.* 30
BELASCO, NORMAN. The Future Stature of Life Support Systems..... *Sept.* 86
BENDER, DAVID F. Optimum Coplanar Two-Impulse Transfers Between Elliptic Orbits... *Oct.* 44
BERNHARDT, ALLAN. The Still Unbroken Barrier..... *June* 7
BERNHARDT, ALLAN. The Still Unbroken Barrier—Part II..... *July* 9
BETCHOV, R., A. E. FUHS, R. X. MEYER, AND A. B. SCHAFFER. Measurement of Electrical Conductivity of Ionized Air During Re-Entry..... *Nov.* 54
BLACK, K. C. Communication—It Isn't All THAT Difficult..... *July* 61
BLAIR, WILLIAM P. The Azimuth Gyro as a Heading Reference for High-Speed Aircraft.. *Aug.* 66
BLECHAR, T. J., R. L. FULLER, AND DON ZAPF. Bowling Ball Scores Discoverer Program

	Month	Page
"Strike"	*Apr.*	61
BODEN, ROBERT H. Propulsion Systems—Selection of High-Thrust Propulsion Systems	*Apr.*	60
BOLT, RICHARD H. Teacher Feedback—A Safeguard to Our Scientific Progress	*Aug.*	6
BORST, H. V. The High-Speed VTOL X-100 and M200 Aircraft	*Aug.*	8
BOUTON, INNES. Fundamental Aspects of Structural Reliability	*June*	66
BRAININ, SAMUEL M., AND MAXWELL MASON. Descent Trajectory Optimization for Soft Lunar Landings	*Apr.*	54
BRAY, RICHARD S., GEORGE E. COOPER, MAURICE D. WHITE, AND MELVIN SADOFF. Assessment of Critical Problem Areas of the Supersonic Transport by Means of Piloted Simulators	*May*	12
BREUHAUS, WALDEMAR O., AND WILLIAM F. MILLIKEN, JR. Control Response Requirements	*Sept.*	82
BRISSENDEN, ROY F., AND EDGAR C. LINEBERRY, JR. Visual Control of Rendezvous	*June*	64
BROMBERG, ROBERT. Energy Conversion—Energy Conversion as Applied to Advanced Space Propulsion Systems	*May*	76
BROWN, ROBERT N. Interplanetary Navigation With Emphasis on Human Participation	*Jan.*	46
BURTE, HARRIS M. Structures and Materials—Trends in the Pursuit of Materials Science and Technology	*Dec.*	65
BUTSCH, L. M., AND M. A. OSTGAARD. Adaptive and Self-Organizing Flight Control Systems	*Sept.*	80
BRYSON, ARTHUR E., KINYA MIKAMI, AND C. TUCKER BATTLE. Optimum Lateral Turns for a Re-Entry Glider	*Mar.*	18
CAPORALI, RENSO L., EUGENE F. BAIRD, AND CHARLES E. SQUIRES, JR. An Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Hydrofoil Flutter	*Feb.*	34
CAPORALI, RENSO L., SAUL FERDMAN, AND ARNOLD P. SCHAFFER. Advances in Flutter Flight Testing Through Automatic Spectrum Analysis Techniques	*June*	54
CHEATHAM, DONALD C., AND ROBERT F. THOMPSON. Considerations for Spacecraft Recovery From Lunar Missions	*Jan.*	52
CHRISTENSON, CARL M. Designing for Airline Safety	*Sept.*	64
COOKSEY, J. M., AND C. J. STALMACH, JR. New Test Techniques for a Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel	*Mar.*	62
COOPER, GEORGE E., MAURICE D. WHITE, MELVIN SADOFF, AND RICHARD S. BRAY. Assessment of Critical Problem Areas of the Supersonic Transport by Means of Piloted Simulators	*May*	12
CORD, JOHN M., AND LEONARD M. SEALE. The One-Way Manned Space Mission	*Dec.*	60
COSTELLO, F. A., and A. P. LATOUR. Optimizing the Power Output of Solar Cells With Concentrators	*Apr.*	31
COX, JOHN W., AND P. MICHAEL UTHE, JR. Mechanical and Aerothermodynamic Design of Tory IIA	*June*	8
DAVISON, ELMER H., AND PAUL C. WINSLOW, JR. Direct Evaluation of Meteoroid Hazard	*Feb.*	24
DECKER, J. L. Roll Control Problem of Finned Rocket Vehicles With Winged Payload	*Nov.*	58
DENIKE, JOHN, AND STANLEY ZAHN. Lunar Basing	*Oct.*	8
DEUTSCH, EDWARD J. A Method of Stress Analysis for Shrouded Discs	*Mar.*	24
DOW, NORRIS F. Structures and Materials—Design Implications of the Unknowns of Ionizing Radiation in Manned Space Flight	*July*	60
DREYFUS, M. G., AND D. T. HILLEARY. Satellite Infrared Spectrometer-Design and Development	*Feb.*	42
DURVASULA, SOMAYAJULU, AND ROBERT M. RIVELLO. Deflection Analysis of Shaft-Supported Aerodynamic Surfaces	*Mar.*	64
EGGLESTON, JOHN M. Some Abort Techniques and Procedures for Manned Spacecraft	*Nov.*	17
EPSTEIN, GEORGE, AND MAX A. NADLER. Bonded Components in Rocket Motors	*May*	70
ERICSSON, LARS-ERIC, AND PHINEAS WOODS. Aerelastic Considerations in a Slender, Blunt-Nose, Multistage Rocket	*May*	42
FAGET, MAXIME A., AND CHARLES W. MATHEWS. Manned Lunar Landing	*Jan.*	50
FERDMAN, SAUL, ARNOLD P. SCHAFFER, AND RENSO L. CAPORALI. Advances in Flutter Flight Testing Through Automatic Spectrum Analysis Techniques	*June*	54
FIELDER, DENNIS E. Information Flow Requirements for Manned Lunar Space Flight	*Jan.*	22
FINKELMAN, E. M. Analysis of the Combined Influences of the Micrometeoroid and Radiation Environments on Spacecraft Design	*Dec.*	41
FIRSTMAN, SIDNEY I. Planning on Effective Missile Ground System—The Role of Operational Analyses	*Mar.*	68
FITTS, PAUL M. Functions of Man in Complex Systems	*Jan.*	34
FLEMINGS, M. C., AND H. F. TAYLOR. Premium-Quality Light Alloy Castings	*July*	10
FORWARD, ROBERT L. Gravity and Antigravity	*Nov.*	56
FREEMAN, DAVID J. Automatic Latitude/Longitude Sensing Technique for Earth Satellites	*Nov.*	48
FUHS, A. E., R. BETCHOV, R. X. MEYER, AND A. B. SCHAFFER. Measurement of Electrical Conductivity of Ionized Air During Re-Entry	*Nov.*	54
FULLER, R. L., DON ZAPF, AND T. J. BLECHAR. Bowling Ball Scores Discoverer Program "Strike"	*Apr.*	61
FUNG, Y. C., AND MILLARD V. BARTON. The Performance of Nonlinear Systems Subjected to Ground Shock	*Feb.*	46
FURLICK, W. J. Will It Fly?	*June*	72
GALEF, A. E., AND H. C. SCHJELDERUP. Rationalization of an Aspect of Sonic Fatigue	*June*	44
GALLAGHER, RICHARD H., IVAN RATTINGER, AND ALEXANDER KRIVETSKY. Minimum Weight Shells in Bending	*Feb.*	58
GARDNER, F. H., G. M. ANDREW, AND J. M. JOHNSON, JR. Gust Alleviator and Rigidity Augmentor for Supersonic Airplanes	*May*	72
GEYER, LEWIS H., AND G. WAYNE HAWK.		

	Month	Page
Secondary-Injection Thrust-Vector Control Systems	*May*	31
GILRUTH, ROBERT. Manned Space Flight—A Progress Report	*Jan.*	8
GILRUTH, ROBERT R., BRAINERD HOLMES, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, WERNHER VON BRAUN, ALAN B. SHEPARD, PAUL HANEY, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
GILRUTH, ROBERT R., AND L. N. MCMILLION. Man's Role in Apollo	*Sept.*	42
GOEDEKE, A. D., AND A. J. MASLEY. Space Radiation—Its Nature and Properties	*June*	21
GRANDE, DONALD L. Some Effects of Random Turbulence on Weapon-System Performance.	*Oct.*	35
GRODSKY, MILTON A. Risk and Reliability	*Jan.*	28
HALL, CHARLES F., GEORGE J. NOTHWANG, AND HAROLD HORNBY. Solar Probes—A Feasibility Study	*May*	22
HALPERT, PERCY. Control and Guidance-Recovery and Landing of Space Vehicles	*May*	76
HAMMEN, T. F., JR. Planning in Today's Management	*Apr.*	56
HANEL, RUDOLF A. Radiometric Measurements From Satellites	*July*	34
HANEY, PAUL, BRAINERD HOLMES, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, WERNHER VON BRAUN, ALAN B. SHEPARD, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
HARPER, CHARLES W., AND MELVIN SADOFF. Piloted Flight-Simulator Research—A Critical Review	*Sept.*	50
HARRISON, HENRY T. Meteorology—The Role of the Weather Flight Plan Computer	*Sept.*	91
HASELTINE, W. R. Nutation Damping Rates for a Spinning Satellite	*Mar.*	10
HAWK, G. WAYNE, AND LEWIS H. GEYER. Secondary-Injection Thrust-Vector Control Systems	*May*	31
HAZELWOOD, R. NICHOLS, JEROME D. HERNITER, SUE S. JAMISON, AND RICHARD F. MEYER. Deployment and Maintenance of Satellite Systems	*Apr.*	27
HEARTZ, R. A. Electronic Support System for Manned Lunar Missions	*Oct.*	22
HEPPE, R. R., AND HALL L. HIBBARD. Concept and Development of a Simple, Stable, and Economical VTOL Vehicle	*Feb.*	16
HERNITER, JEROME D., SUE S. JAMISON, RICHARD F. MEYER, AND R. NICHOLS HAZELWOOD. Deployment and Maintenance of Satellite Systems	*Apr.*	27
HETZEL, MAX. Evolving the Electronic Watch	*Jan.*	56
HIBBARD, HALL L., AND R. R. HEPPE. Concept and Development of a Simple, Stable, and Economical VTOL Vehicle	*Feb.*	16
HILEMAN, RALPH A. The Naval Tactical Data System Modular Concept	*Apr.*	45
HILLEARY, D. T., AND M. G. DREYFUS. Satellite Infrared Spectrometer—Design and Development	*Feb.*	42
HOLMES, BRAINERD, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, WERNHER VON BRAUN, ALAN B. SHEPARD, PAUL HANEY, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
HORNBY, HAROLD, CHARLES F. HALL, AND GEORGE J. NOTHWANG. Solar Probes—A Feasibility Study	*May*	22
HOUGH, RICHARD R. Project Beacon—Air Traffic Control System Considerations and Recommendations	*June*	50
HUSON, JOHN N., AND J. GORDON VAETH. Systems Maintenance Training—A Bold Approach	*July*	29
ISCA, JAMES A., AND JOHN PATIERNO. Instrument Flight Simulator Study of the VTOL Controllability-Control Power Relationship.	*Mar.*	31
JAMISON, SUE S., RICHARD F. MEYER, R. NICHOLS HAZELWOOD, AND JEROME D. HERNITER. Deployment and Maintenance of Satellite Systems	*Apr.*	27
JOHNSON, J. M., JR., F. H. GARDNER, AND G. M. ANDREW. Gust Alleviator and Rigidity Augmentor for Supersonic Airplanes	*May*	72
JOY, WARREN, D. L. SMITH, R. J. SCHMITT, AND M. A. SOUSA. Performance and Economic Evaluation of Supersonic Transports Optimized for Various Propulsion Subsystems	*Mar.*	42
KAHN, HERMAN. Planning Two Technological Revolutions Ahead	*Apr.*	8
KAPLAN, A. L. Investigating Radiation Effects on Electronic Devices	*July*	40
KIRBY, F. M. Propulsion for Interplanetary Space Missions	*Aug.*	22
KLEIN, BERTRAM. Winding Very Large Rocket Motor Casings	*June*	68
KRIVETSKY, ALEXANDER, RICHARD H. GALLAGHER, AND IVAN RATTINGER. Minimum Weight Shell in Bending	*Feb.*	58
KUCA, S. A., AND J. M. BAILEY. Backlash Tolerances and Their Effects on a Guided Missile	*Dec.*	29
LANG, RONALD, AND BARRY T. LUBIN. A Basic Solar Thermoelectric Power Unit—Seeking Experimental and Theoretical Performance Agreement	*Feb.*	6
LATOUR, A. P., AND F. A. COSTELLO. Optimizing the Power Output of Solar Cells With Concentrators	*Apr.*	31
LAUGHLIN, C. PATRICK. In-Flight Measurement, Transmission, and Assessment of Astronaut Physiologic Responses	*Jan.*	40
LEDEEN, EDWARD A. Tools for Management	*Feb.*	63
LIEBERMAN, STANLEY I. A Bang-Bang Attitude Control System for Space Vehicles	*Oct.*	54
LINDORFER, WILLIAM, AND ALLAN NATHAN. Optimization of Missile Intercept Range	*May*	74
LINDQUIST, O. H. Emphasis on Human Participation in Guidance and Control	*Jan.*	48
LINEBERRY, EDGAR C., JR., and ROY F. BRISSENDEN. Visual Control of Rendezvous	*June*	64
LONGREN, DENNIS R., AND DIETRICH G. STECHERT. Predicting Missile Performance Margin—An Analytical Method	*Aug.*	58
LOW, CHARLES A., JR., AND WILLIAM R. MICKELSEN. An Electrostatic Propulsion		

	Month	Page
System With a Direct Nuclear Electrogenerator	*Dec.*	58
LUBIN, BARRY T., AND RONALD A. LANG. Basic Solar Thermoelectric Power Unit—Seeking Experimental and Theoretical Performance Agreement	*Feb.*	6
LUETJEN, H. H. Ground Check-Out and Launch Procedures for Manned Space-Flight Operations	*Jan.*	16
LYNN, ROBERT R. New Control Criteria for VTOL Aircraft	*Aug.*	31
MAJENDIE, A. M. A. Automatic Landing—The Role of the Human Pilot	*Sept.*	24
MANSON, LIDIA. A Closed Analytical Solution for the Core Dimensions of Heat Exchangers	*Dec.*	32
MARTIN, JAMES A. The Record-Setting Research Airplanes	*Dec.*	49
MASLEY, A. J., AND A. D. GOEDEKE. Space Radiation—Its Nature and Properties	*June*	21
MASON, MAXWELL, AND SAMUEL M. BRAININ. Descent Trajectory Optimization for Soft Lunar Landings	*Apr.*	54
MASSA, JULES A., AND ROBERT L. ROD. A Digital Propellant Utilization System	*Nov.*	27
MATHEWS, CHARLES W., AND MAXIME A. FAGET. Manned Lunar Landing	*Jan.*	50
MCKINLEY, J. W., AND GERALD A. WEMPNER. Corrugated Open-Face Sandwich Plate	*Dec.*	56
MCMILLION, L. N., AND ROBERT R. GILRUTH. Man's Role in Apollo	*Sept.*	42
MCRUER, D. T., AND I. L. ASHKENAS. Design Implications of the Human Transfer Function	*Sept.*	76
MCRUER, DUANE T., AND IRVING L. ASHKENAS. A Theory of Handling Qualities Derived From Pilot-Vehicle System Considerations	*Feb.*	60
MEDFORD, J. E. Transient, Radial Heat Transfer in Uncooled Rocket Nozzles	*Oct.*	15
MERIAM, J. L. Momentum Equations for Variable Mass	*July*	52
MEYER, R. X., R. BETCHOV, A. E. FUHS, AND A. B. SCHAFFER. Measurement of Electrical Conductivity of Ionized Air During Re-Entry	*Nov.*	54
MEYER, RICHARD F., R. NICHOLS HAZELWOOD, JEROME D. HERNITER, AND SUE S. JAMISON. Deployment and Maintenance of Satellite Systems	*Apr.*	27
MICKELSEN, WILLIAM R., and CHARLES A. LOW, JR. An Electrostatic Propulsion System with a Direct Nuclear Electrogenerator	*Dec.*	58
MIKAMI, KINYA, C. TUCKER BATTLE, AND ARTHUR E. BRYSON. Optimum Lateral Turns for a Re-Entry Glider	*Mar.*	18
MILLIKEN, WILLIAM F., JR., AND WALDEMAR O. BREUHAUS. Control Response Requirements	*Sept.*	82
MORRISON, S. C. Maximizing Reliability for One-Shot Space Missions	*Mar.*	54
NADLER, MAX A., AND GEORGE EPSTEIN. Bonded Components in Rocket Motors	*May*	70
NATHAN, ALLAN, AND WILLIAM LINDORFER. Optimization of Missile Intercept Range	*May*	74
NORTH, WARREN J., AND WALTER C. WILLIAMS. The NASA Astronaut Program	*Jan.*	13
NOTHWANG, GEORGE J., HAROLD HORNBY, AND CHARLES F. HALL. Solar Probes—A Feasibility Study	*May*	22
OAKLEY, OWEN H. Hydrofoils—A State of the Art Summary	*Dec.*	10
ODELL, CHARLES N., AND W. E. ALBERT. The Filament—Reinforced Motor Case	*Apr.*	52
OLKEN, HYMAN. Engineers CAN Write!	*Oct.*	58
ORDWAY, D. E., AND ALFRED RITTER. Some Results of Finite-Bladed Ducted-Propeller Theory for VTOL	*July*	54
OSTGAARD, M. A., AND L. M. BUTSCH. Adaptive and Self-Organizing Flight Control Systems	*Sept.*	80
PATIERNO, JOHN, AND JAMES A. ISCA. Instrument Flight Simulator Study of the VTOL Controllability-Control Power Relationship	*Mar.*	31
PERINA, JOSEPH. Views on Aerospace Engineering Education	*Apr.*	58
PETERSEN, NORMAN V. Orbital Assembly and Launch for Lunar Operations	*Aug.*	41
POWERS, JOHN "SHORTY," BRAINERD HOLMES, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, WERNHER VON BRAUN, ALAN B. SHEPARD, AND PAUL HANEY. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
PRESS, HARRY, AND RUDOLF STAMPFL. Nimbus Spacecraft System	*July*	16
PRESSMAN, JEROME. Space Rocket Upper Atmosphere Modification	*Aug.*	16
RATTINGER, IVAN, ALEXANDER KRIVETSKY, AND RICHARD H. GALLAGHER. Minimum Weight Shells in Bending	*Feb.*	58
REED, JACK W., AND KENNETH G. ADAMS. Sonic Boom Waves—Calculation of Atmospheric Refraction	*Mar.*	66
REITER, ELMAR R. On the Nature of Clear-Air Turbulence (CAT)	*Nov.*	39
RIEHL, HERBERT. Meteorology—Atmospheric Jet Streams in the Aerospace Age	*June*	70
RITTER, ALFRED, AND D. E. ORDWAY. Some Results of Finite-Bladed Ducted-Propeller Theory for VTOL	*July*	54
RIVELLO, ROBERT M., AND SOMAYAJULU DURVASULA. Deflection Analysis of Shaft-Supported Aerodynamic Surfaces	*Mar.*	64
ROD, ROBERT L., AND JULES A. MASSA. A Digital Propellant Utilization System	*Nov.*	27
RODERICK, ROBERT L. Control and Guidance—Apollo Most Complex, Extensive Guidance Job Yet	*Mar.*	70
ROOT, L. E. Our Expanding Scientific and Technological Challenge (an address by the Institute's 30th President)	*Dec.*	8
ROSA, J. J. Critical Bio-Engineering Needs for Lunar Missions	*Apr.*	50
ROSENBERG, PAUL. Communication—Communication With Extraterrestrial Intelligence	*Aug.*	68
RUHLAND, R. C. Tailoring the First Cycle	*Mar.*	71
RUSSAK, SIDNEY. Designing for Space Radiation	*Oct.*	60
RYDER, FREDERICK L. Structural Analysis by Computers—A Comparison of Three Types	*Aug.*	60

	Month	Page
SADOFF, MELVIN, RICHARD S. BRAY, GEORGE E. COOPER, AND MAURICE D. WHITE. Assessment of Critical Problem Areas of the Supersonic Transport by Means of Piloted Simulators	*May*	12
SADOFF, MELVIN, AND CHARLES W. HARPER. Piloted Flight-Simulator Research—A Critical Review	*Sept.*	50
SAWYER, RALPH S. On-Board Tracking and Data Systems for a Manned Lunar Spacecraft	*Jan.*	44
SCHAFFER, A. B., R. BETCHOV, A. E. FUHS, AND R. X. MEYER. Measurement of Electrical Conductivity of Ionized Air During Re-Entry	*Nov.*	54
SCHAFFER, ARNOLD P., RENSO L. CAPORALI, AND SAUL FERDMAN. Advances in Flutter Flight Testing Through Automatic Spectrum Analysis Techniques	*June*	54
SCHJELDERUP, H. C., AND A. E. GALEF. Rationalization of an Aspect of Sonic Fatigue	*June*	44
SCHMIDT, STANLEY F. Control and Guidance—Theoretician Faces a More Difficult Task	*Feb.*	62
SCHMITT, R. J., M. A. SOUSA, WARREN JOY, AND D. L. SMITH. Performance and Economic Evaluation of Supersonic Transports Optimized for Various Propulsion Subsystems	*Mar.*	42
SCHNAPF, A. Tiros I, II, and III—Design and Performance	*June*	32
SEALE, LEONARD M., AND JOHN M. CORD. The One-May Manned Space Mission	*Dec.*	60
SEHGAL, ROBERT. Payload Separation and Thrust Termination in a Solid-Propellant Rocket Motor	*May*	6
SEN, WILLIAM J. Communication—The New Dimensions of Electronics	*Oct.*	63
SERBIN, H. Reliability and Confidence Criteria in Structural Design	*Dec.*	37
SHAININ, DORIAN. Reliability—Managing a Reliability Program	*Dec.*	64
SHEPARD, ALAN B., BRAINERD HOLMES, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, WERNHER VON BRAUN, PAUL HANEY, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
SMITH, D. L., R. J. SCHMITT, M. A. SOUSA, AND WARREN JOY. Performance and Economic Evaluation of Supersonic Transports Optimized for Various Propulsion Subsystems	*Mar.*	42
SOUSA, M. A., WARREN JOY, D. L. SMITH, AND R. J. SCHMITT. Performance and Economic Evaluation of Supersonic Transports Optimized for Various Propulsion Subsystems	*Mar.*	42
SPIEGEL, JOSEPH M. Effects of Mars Atmospheric Uncertainties on Entry Vehicle Design	*Dec.*	62
SQUIRES, CHARLES E., RENSO L. CAPORALI, AND EUGENE F. BAIRD. An Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Hydrofoil Flutter	*Feb.*	34
STAHLE, C. V., JR. Phase Separation Technique for Ground Vibration Testing	*July*	56
STALMACH, C. J., JR., AND J. M. COOKSEY. New Test Techniques for a Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel	*Mar.*	62
STAMPFL, RUDOLF, AND HARRY PRESS. Nimbus Spacecraft System	*July*	16
STARKEY, D. G. The Space Vehicle—Manned Versus Unmanned	*Sept.*	88
STECHERT, DIETRICH G., AND DENNIS R. LONGREN. Predicting Missile Performance Margin—An Analytical Method	*Aug.*	58
STEG, LEO. Coming to Terms With Machines.	*Sept.*	14
STEG, LEO. Space Physics—The Road to the Planets	*June*	71
STEPHENSON, W. B. Investigation of High-Speed Impact—A Technique	*Nov.*	10
STEPHENSON, W. B., AND D. E. ANDERSON. Two-Stage, Light-Gas Model Launchers—Performance Characteristics	*Aug.*	64
STEPNIEWSKI, WIESLAW Z. The Subsonic VTOL and GETOL in Perspective	*Apr.*	10
STRAND, T. 150-Knot GEM Cruise	*Apr.*	38
TAYLOR, H. F., AND M. C. FLEMINGS. Premium-Quality Light Alloy Castings	*July*	10
TEPPER, MORRIS. Meteorology—On the Verge of a Breakthrough	*Jan.*	54
THOMPSON, ROBERT F., AND DONALD C. CHEATHAM. Considerations for Spacecraft Recovery From Lunar Missions	*Jan.*	52
TILGNER, CHARLES, III. Hydrofoil Testing	*May*	77
TURNER, HARRY M. Design Parameters for Elliptical Toroidal Pressure Vessels	*Nov.*	33
UTHE, P. MICHAEL, JR., AND JOHN W. COX. Mechanical and Aerothermodynamic Design of Tory IIA	*June*	8
UTTERSTROM, J. R. Pilot Considerations in Transport Autopilot Design	*Sept.*	35
VAETH, J. GORDON, AND JOHN N. HUSON. Systems Maintenance Training—A Bold Approach	*July*	29
VON BRAUN, WERNHER, BRAINERD HOLMES, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WALTER C. WILLIAMS, ALAN B. SHEPARD, PAUL HANEY, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
WEBB, JAMES E. Talent Flow—Let's Design for It	*Nov.*	9
WEISSMAN, CLEM C. The Navy and V/STOL	*May*	52
WEMPNER, GERALD A., AND J. W. MCKINLEY. Corrugated Open-Face Sandwich Plate	*Dec.*	56
WHITE, MAURICE D., MELVIN SADOFF, RICHARD S. BRAY, AND GEORGE E. COOPER. Assessment of Critical Problem Areas of the Supersonic Transport by Means of Piloted Simulators	*May*	12
WHITEMAN, IRVIN R. On the Derivation of the Stress-Strain Diagram From a Statistical Approach	*Oct.*	56
WIDROW, BERNARD, AND JAMES B. ANGELL. Reliable, Trainable Networks for Computing and Control	*Sept.*	78
WILLIAMS, WALTER C., BRAINERD HOLMES, ROBERT R. GILRUTH, WERNHER VON BRAUN, ALAN B. SHEPARD, PAUL HANEY, AND JOHN "SHORTY" POWERS. Managing Man's Greatest Adventure—Some Questions and Answers	*Sept.*	16
WILLIAMS, WALTER C., AND WARREN J. NORTH. The NASA Astronaut Program	*Jan.*	13
WILMOTTE, RAYMOND M. NASA's RELAY Spacecraft	*Aug.*	62

	Month	Page
WINSLOW, PAUL C., JR., AND ELMER H. DAVISON. Direct Evaluation of Meteoroid Hazard	*Feb.*	24
WOHL, JOSEPH G. Erratum	*Feb.*	65
WOODS, PHINEAS, AND LARS-ERIC ERICSSON. Aeroelastic Considerations in a Slender, Blunt-Nose, Multistage Rocket	*May*	42
WU, J. H. T. On a Two-Dimensional Perforated Intake Diffuser	*July*	58
XYDIS, F. E. Designing Long-Life Unmanned Satellites	*Sept.*	84
ZACHMANN, HOWARD C. Electric Power for Space Vehicles	*May*	68
ZAHN, STANLEY, AND JOHN DENIKE. Lunar Basing	*Oct.*	8
ZAPF, DON, T. J. BLECHAR, AND R. L. FULLER. Bowling Ball Scores Discoverer Program "Strike"	*Apr.*	61

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Lauds Christenson Article, Whole Man vs. Machine Issue

■ The "Reader Feedback" questionnaire in September *Aerospace Engineering* was most appropriately placed for me at the end of Carl Christenson's fine article! This is the kind of writing which reminds one that what benefits him personally in a philosophic sense indeed may benefit him professionally. The converse, which is perhaps less frequent, is also demonstrated in good measure by Mr. Christenson's article.

We have need of such reminders as markers to help us re-establish the bearings we tend to lose on occasion in our "panic for progress." If I were to take the position of a reviewer, I would say that Mr. Christenson has made a timely and eloquent plea for a "return to natural philosophy" in the design of our airline safety activities (as well as some of the equipment that goes with them!). Those who were fortunate enough to attend the December 1961 National Rocket Club luncheon in Washington would recognize in this plea the counterpart of that advanced to this group by Dr. Robert Jastrow of NASA with regard to the design of our space experiments. Both might be extended to cover the design of our corporate—and Government—organization structures.

I would urge those who have not read Mr. Christenson's article to go back to the September issue and do so. To those that have, I would urge its rereading. There's more to it than may appear from the first pass. I would also like to add that while my personal interests caused me to respond as I have to this particular article, I regard September *Aerospace Engineering* comprehensively as an unusually fine and thoughtful issue and extend my thanks to all concerned—authors and staff.

We do not have to sacrifice a great deal of the technical content normally expected of this publication to include such articles on occasion, and perhaps our use of the technical content will benefit by a periodic dose of philosophy such as Mr. Christenson's. Let's have more!

P. R. de Bruyn, MIAS
Wayland, Mass.